

20749 Parkside Circle
Sterling, VA 20165

May 19, 1999

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Lyle D. Jaffe
Dockets Management
FDA/DHHS
12420 Parklawn Drive
Room I-23
Rockville, MD 20857

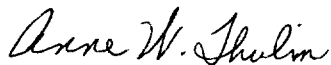
Dear Mr. Jaffe,

We recently learned from reading a magazine produced by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) that approximately 75% of the 260 million hens that lay eggs in North America are unnaturally and cruelly forced to molt. The purpose of this forced molt is to get one last laying cycle out of the already abused hens. This "molting" is accomplished by depriving the hens of food and water for two weeks or more. In addition, the birds are often kept in total darkness for extended periods of time.

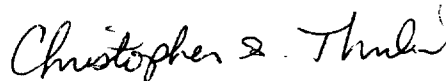
There is already enough abuse in our factory farming society without adding this to the list of animal abuses that are condoned. Forced molting was banned in Great Britain in 1987, and most European countries do not allow food deprivation for more than 24 hours. It is time for our country to take similar positions, and your agency has the power to affect such change.

Therefore, we ask that you support the petition to ban the forced molting of layer hens (docket 98P-0203/CP). Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



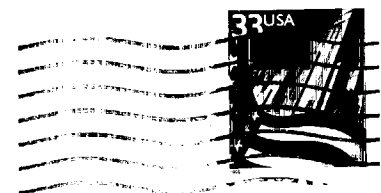
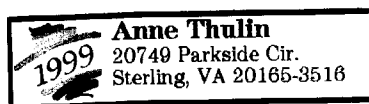
Anne W. Thulin



Christopher S. Thulin

98P-0203

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